



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

April 2013 – Week 2

Air Date: April 7 – April 13 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: BATTLE OF BOOTS AND SANDALS

APRIL 1886 AND BORDER POLITICS TURN BLOODY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

APRIL 7, 1886. LAREDO. TWO FACTIONS VIE FOR POLITICAL POWER. RANCHER RAYMOND MARTIN LEADS THE “BOTAS”, NAMED FOR THE BOOTS WORN BY WEALTHY RESIDENTS. SANTOS BENAVIDES, FORMER CONFEDERATE COLONEL AND LOCAL HERO, LEADS THE POPULIST ‘GUARACHES’ OR SANDALS.

AFTER A HOTLY CONTESTED ELECTION ON THE 6TH, DRUNKEN BOOTS AND SANDALS GUNMEN FILL THE STREETS.

AT SAN AGUSTIN PLAZA, BOTH SIDES OPEN FIRE, EXCHANGING 2000 ROUNDS IN 30 MINUTES. FEDERAL SOLDIERS INTERVENE BUT 16 LAREDOANS LAY DEAD WITH DOZENS WOUNDED.

IT’S THE BLOODIEST SHOOTOUT IN THE WEST.

TEN YEARS LATER, THE BOOTS AND SANDALS MERGE TO FORM A NEW PARTY.

THE BOOTS AND SANDALS SHOT IT OUT 127 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Jose Francisco Segovia, "BOTAS AND GUARACHES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pqb01>), accessed March 28, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Jerry Thompson, "BENAVIDES, SANTOS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbe47>), accessed March 28, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Carlos E. Cuéllar, "MARTIN, RAYMOND," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmapj>), accessed March 28, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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